

*executive committee of  
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



47th Meeting  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
September 1962

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F I N A L   R E P O R T

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Date of the 48th Meeting of the Executive Committee	3
2. Study on the organization of the Conference	4

FINAL REPORT

The 47th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Health Organization was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Pick-Nicollet Hotel on 3 September 1962, as convoked by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The following members of the Committee, observers, and officers of the Bureau were present at the meeting:

Members:

Dr. Victorio Vicente Olguín	ARGENTINA
Dr. Alfonso A. S. von der Becke	
Dr. Alfredo Leonardo Bravo	CHILE
Dr. Max Terán Valls	COSTA RICA
Dr. Carlos Manuel Prada Díaz	
Dr. Francisco Urcuyo Maliaño	NICARAGUA
Dr. Manuel A. Sánchez-Vigil	
Dr. Carlos Quirós Salinas	PERU
Dr. Charles L. Williams	UNITED STATES OF
Mr. Howard B. Calderwood	AMERICA
Dr. Orestes Vidovich	URUGUAY

Member and Secretary ex officio of  
the Committee:

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director	PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU
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Observers:

Dr. Jaime Pérez Archila	COLOMBIA
Dr. Roberto Nevárez Vásquez	ECUADOR
Dr. Raymond G. Hyronimus	FRANCE
Dr. Robert Rose-Rosette	

Advisers to the Director of the  
Pan American Sanitary Bureau:

Dr. John C. Cutler, Deputy Director

Dr. Victor A. Sutter, Assistant Director

Dr. Stuart Portner, Chief of Administration

Chief, Secretariat Services:

Dr. José Quero Molares

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Victorio V. Olguín (Argentina), Acting Chairman, opened the Meeting and welcomed the Representatives of Costa Rica and of the United States of America, the countries which had been elected by the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference to fill the vacancies that occurred on the expiry of the term of office of Colombia and of El Salvador.

OFFICERS

The Committee then elected the Chairman of the Executive Committee in conformity with Article 18 of the Constitution and Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. Dr. Francisco Urcuyo Maliaño, Representative of Nicaragua, was elected and took the Chair. Dr. Alfredo Leonardo Bravo, Representative of Chile, was then elected Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Olguín thanked the retiring representatives, the other members of the Executive Committee, and the staff of the Bureau for their excellent assistance, which had made his task so easy.

Dr. Urcuyo and Dr. Bravo expressed their thanks to the other members of the Committee for having elected them to office.

#### AGENDA

The draft agenda contained in Document AG/1 was adopted.

#### ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following items were discussed during the 47th Meeting:

1. Date of the 48th Meeting of the Executive Committee

Dr. Horwitz (Director, PASB) said that it was customary for the spring meeting of the Executive Committee to be held near the date of the World Health Assembly, since the Governments usually designated their representatives on the Committee to attend the World Health Assembly. The Executive Committee, therefore, usually met during the week preceding the opening of the World Health Assembly.

According to the information at his disposal, the Assembly would begin on 7 May 1963, and since experience of Executive Committee meetings showed that at least six days might be needed to get through the agenda, it might be better for the Committee to do what it had done in the past, namely, to authorize the Chairman to fix the date of the 48th Meeting in agreement with the Director of the Bureau and to inform the representatives in due course.

Dr. Olguin (Argentina) supported the suggestion made by the Director.

Dr. Bravo (Chile) also supported the suggestion of the Director but recommended that the date fixed should not leave too long a gap between the end of the meeting of the Executive Committee and the beginning of the World Health Assembly.

It was agreed to authorize the Chairman of the Executive Committee to fix the date of the 48th Meeting of the Executive Committee in agreement with the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

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## 2. Study on the organization of the Conference

Mr. Calderwood (United States of America) said that in view of the experience obtained at the XVI Pan American Sanitary Conference the organization of future conferences might be simplified. For example, the room in which the Committee was meeting had not been used for most of the time of the Conference. Committee II had held one session there and the Technical Discussions had taken place there, but all the other sessions had been held in the other meeting room. It was far too costly to rent two rooms when one would probably have been enough; the money saved could have been used for other purposes. Perhaps all the business of the Conference could be handled in plenary sessions, and working parties could be established where necessary. On the other hand, it might perhaps be well to retain the practice of having two main committees and to divide the work between them so that one dealt with all technical matters and the other with finance, administration, and legal matters. In any event, the matter should be studied, and the Directing Council could take action on it

before the next Conference, to which its recommendations would have to be submitted. Some doubts had been expressed at the XVI Conference about whether the practice of choosing the officers of the Conference at the meeting of the heads of delegations was consistent with the constitutional provision about election by secret ballot, and so forth; all such questions relating to the organization of the Conference should be examined.

It would be recalled that it had been necessary to change the Rules of Procedure so as to adapt them to the revised text of the Constitution, which the Directing Council had approved at its meeting in the preceding autumn. Although the new Rules of Procedure were an improvement, they nevertheless contained certain anomalies which should be corrected. For example, Rule 13 provided that the plenary sessions be devoted to matters of general interest and to the discussion and approval of the reports of the various committees, whereas according to Rule 28 the establishment of committees was optional. Those two rules clearly had to be brought into conformity. The Rules of Procedure also provided that a Vice-President who was acting as Chairman should designate another member of his delegation to speak on his behalf in plenary sessions, yet it had been the practice for any delegate to speak in the plenary sessions regardless of whether he had been designated by the head of this delegation.

Such anomalies in the Rules of Procedure ought to be corrected. Consequently, he would propose a resolution inviting the Director to make a study of the Basic Documents with the view to simplifying the organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and to clarifying its Rules of Procedure.

Dr. Quirós (Peru) expressed his agreement with the statement by the Representative of the United States of America. There was a series of points that needed to be revised, in particular concerning the election of the Director, for although the Rules of Procedure stated that the election would be secret, the fact of the matter was that before the election was held candidates were designated, which meant that the election was not secret.

Dr. Bravo (Chile) also supported the proposal of Mr. Calderwood since there was a number of small details in the Rules of Procedure that needed to be cleared up. A good example was the procedure to be followed when the President and Vice-President absented themselves from the meeting; another was the arrangements for replacing members of the General Committee. At the recent Conference, that had been ad hoc since there was no rule of procedure covering the point.

Dr. Olguín (Argentina) also stressed the importance of the proposal made by Mr. Calderwood and said that situations had arisen during the Conference that made it advisable to adopt new procedures or to change existing ones so as to make the machinery of the Conference as perfect as possible.

He stressed the financial aspect mentioned by the Representative of the United States of America and the importance of examining those points in the organization of conferences whose modification might lead to a reduction in the cost of such meetings. Nevertheless the measures adopted should maintain the authority of the Conference as far as possible.



Dr. Horwitz (Director, PASB) said that it would be helpful if the Representative of the United States of America would formulate his resolution in very concrete terms, since if the administration were to undertake a study of that type, it would need clear terms of reference. It appeared that what was being asked for was a revision of the Conference organization in the light of experience obtained at the XVI Conference, in order to eliminate certain anomalies of procedure and practice.

Mr. Calderwood (United States of America) said that he had formulated his proposal in broad terms so as to allow other members of the Committee or other delegates to the Conference who had ideas on how to simplify the organization of the Conference or who had discovered what they considered to be anomalies to express their points of view. The study he had in mind would be limited to those two points; it would cover not all the Basic Documents, i. e. the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council or the Executive Committee or the Constitution but only those provisions of the Basic Documents that referred to the organization of the Conference. That was one thing. The second would be to suppress such anomalies as might be found in the Rules of Procedure. He had already mentioned some and would submit to the Secretariat a list of the rules which in his opinion needed re-examination. There would be time for that since the study did not have to begin immediately.

Dr. Terán (Costa Rica) suggested that the meeting should be suspended so that the representatives could get together with the Representative from the United States of America and come to an agreement on which Rules of Procedure the Committee wanted to have reviewed.

Dr. Bravo (Chile) supported the proposal of the Representative of Costa Rica.

It was so agreed.

When the session was resumed, Dr. Sánchez Vigil (Nicaragua) said that in view of the magnitude of the problem and the complexity of the task the meeting did not have enough time to take a decision in the matter which, because of its importance, should be examined by all the Governments and not merely by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Calderwood (United States of America) said that the Director should initiate a study with two purposes in mind: one, to simplify the organization of the Conference; the other, to clarify the Rules of Procedure by removing any anomalies and improving a few of the Rules. To facilitate the task, the Governments should be asked to submit observations and suggestions during the next 12 months. The Director would then have two or three more years in which to make the study and have the Executive Committee and the Directing Council act upon it before the Conference in 1966.

After that explanation, Mr. Calderwood read the following text prepared during the recess: "The Executive Committee, (1) Requests the Director to undertake a study of the pertinent provisions in the Basic Documents with a view to simplifying the organization of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and clarifying its Rules of Procedure; (2) Requests the Director to invite the Governments of the Organization to submit comments and suggestions before the next meeting of the Directing Council in 1963 in order to facilitate this study."

Dr. Horwitz (Director, PASB) said that he had asked the Representative of the United States of America to clarify his proposal, since in the form in which it had been submitted initially, it did not provide the Secretariat with sufficiently clear terms of reference; furthermore, it was necessary, in his opinion, to have the opinion of a considerable number of the Governments about the points in the machinery of the Conference and the pertinent Rules of Procedure they deemed it advisable to modify.

The study proposed would be made, but since, as he had said, he considered it most advisable to have the opinion of the Governments, he was going to send out a circular letter in the next few weeks. Memories of the Conference were still fresh and that fact would make it possible to have opinions more quickly. The Bureau would obtain the background information in that way and would submit a preliminary report to the appropriate Governing Body.

It was so agreed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Chairman of the Committee and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretary ex officio, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States of America, this third day of September nineteen hundred and sixty-two. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Governments of the Organization.

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Chairman of the Executive Committee  
Representative of Nicaragua

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Director of the Pan American  
Sanitary Bureau  
Secretary ex officio of the  
Executive Committee